

August 20, 2008

E-19J

Jane Darnell, Project Leader  
Medford-Park Falls Ranger District  
Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest  
850 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Highway 13  
Medford, Wisconsin 54451

**Re: Medford Aspen Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Medford-Park Falls Ranger District,  
Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (Forest), Wisconsin  
EIS No. 20080260**

Dear Ms. Darnell:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has reviewed the above-mentioned Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Medford Aspen Project. Our comments in this letter are provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA Implementing Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The Draft EIS analyzes proposed actions to implement the current Forest Plan and move forest resources toward the desired future conditions for the Management Area located in the analysis area. The primary project-specific needs are to improve the diversity of age classes of aspen in the project area as well as maintain habitat for early successional wildlife species.

The Draft EIS documents analysis of a No-Action alternative plus three action alternatives. The action alternatives differ by the amount of older aspen harvested and regenerated and the size of patches of young forest. The Draft EIS indicates that Alternative 3 is the proposed action. Based on our review of the document, we have assigned a rating of "Lack of Objections" to this Draft EIS. A summary of the rating system used in the evaluation of these documents is enclosed for your reference.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this Draft EIS. If you have any questions concerning these comments, please contact Kathleen Kowal of my staff at (312) 353-5206 or via email at [kowal.kathleen@epa.gov](mailto:kowal.kathleen@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

*/s/ Kenneth A. Westlake*

Kenneth A. Westlake, Supervisor  
NEPA Implementation  
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

cc: Jim McDonald, Regional Environmental Coordinator  
Enclosure – Summary of Rating Definitions